

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 07618 070856Z

10  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SAM-01 USSS-00 A-01

OPR-02 /063 W

----- 096217

O R 051731Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7434

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 7618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON ETA ASSASSINATIONS

RET: MADRID 7576 (NOTAL); MADRID 7383

SUMMARY: ETA'S MILITARY WING HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
YESTERDAY'S ASSASSINATION OF COUNSELOR OF THE REALM ARALUCE  
AND FOUR ACCOMPANYING BODYGUARDS. GOVT HAS EXPLICITLY RE-  
FUSED TO RISE TO THE BAIT, STOPPING SHORT OF DECLARING STATE  
OF EXCEPTION. REACTION TO THE KILLINGS, INCLUDING WITHIN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 07618 070856Z

THE BASQUE PROVINCES, REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN ONE OF SHOCK AND

CONDEMNATION. END SUMMARY.

1. YESTERDAY'S MACHINEGUN ATTACK IN DOWNTOWN SAN SEBASTIAN, GUIPUZCOA, HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES OF FIVE VICTIMS: COUNSELOR OF THE REALM ARALUCE AND FOUR ACCOMPANYING BODYGUARDS (REFTEL). ETA'S "MILITARY" WING, IN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS TO BASQUE NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS AND A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED IN BAYONNE, FRANCE, HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLINGS. SPECULATION IN TODAY'S "INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE" THAT THE FAR-LEFT RECONSTITUTED SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE-R) WAS THE PERPETRATOR HAS NOT BEEN ECHOED HERE.

2. AFTER AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING LAST NIGHT, INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA, IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS, TOLD THE NATION THAT THE GOVT WOULD ACT RIGOROUSLY TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER WHILE MOVING AHEAD WITH THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS. MARTIN VILLA STATED THAT THE POLICE WOULD USE SPECIAL POWERS ACCORDED THEM BY EXISTING LEGISLATION --E.G., SEARCH WITHOUT WARRANT, HOLDING OF SUSPECTS FOR UP TO FIVE DAYS WITHOUT CHARGE--BUT THAT A "STATE OF EXCEPTION" WOULD NOT BE DECREED. MILITARY TROOPS WOULD REINFORCE BORDER POLICE IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE TERRORISTS FROM ESCAPING INTO FRANCE. MARTIN VILLA, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVT DID NOT INTEND TO PLAY INTO THE TERRORISTS' HANDS BY PUNISHING THE BASQUE PEOPLE FOR THE CRIMES OF A HANDFUL OF EXTREMISTS.

3. PUBLIC REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATIONS HAS BEEN UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNATORY. POLITICAL LEADERS RANGING FROM ULTRA-RIGHTIST JOSE ANTONIO GIRON (CONFEDERATION OF CIVIL WAR VETERANS) TO FAR-LEFTIST NAZARIO AGUADO (PARTIDO DEL TRABAJO) HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE KILLINGS, AND MANY HAVE POINTEDLY CAUTIONED THE GOVT AGAINST FALLING INTO THE TERRORISTS' TRAP BY OVERREACTING. THE CORRESPONDENT FOR RESPECTED AFTERNOON DAILY "INFORMACIONES" REPORTS FROM SAN SEBASTIAN THAT THE CITY'S RESIDENTS ARE OUTRAGED BY THE ATTACK, AND AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS SIMILAR REACTIONS IN THE VIZCAYAN CAPITAL. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE PUBLIC OUTCRY IN THIS CASE IS UNLIKELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 07618 070856Z

TO BE AS INTENSE AS IT WAS AFTER THE ETA MURDER OF INDUSTRIALIST ANGEL BERAZADI, SIMPLY BECAUSE ARALUCE WAS A GOVT OFFICIAL, NOT A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL.

4. WHERE ETA'S POLITICAL/MILITARY WING RECENTLY HAS WAFLED ON THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM (REFTEL), THE MORE RADICAL MILITARY WING NEVER HAS DONE SO. EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE "MILIS" WARNED BASQUE OFFICIALS THAT THEY HAD TO EITH-

ER RESIGN THEIR POSTS OR FACE THE "CONSEQUENCES." THE GOAL OF THE MILITARY WING ALWAYS HAS BEEN TO PROVOKE THE GOVT INTO REACTING TO ITS DEPRADATIONS BY CRACKING DOWN ON BASQUES GENERALLY. THE MOTIVES FOR THE CHOICE OF THESE PARTICULAR VICTIMS ARE OBSCURE; THEY MAY SIMPLY HAVE BEEN TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. HOWEVER, THE TIMING OF THE AT-TACK SEEMS TRANSPARENTLY TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPT 27 MURDER, APPARENTLY BY RIGHTISTS, OF A MADRID STUDENT, AND THE FATAL SHOOTING SEPT 8 OF A BASQUE YOUTH BY POLICE.

5. THE ETA SAFE-HAVEN IN FRANCE HAS LONG BEEN A SORE POINT WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES AND REMAINS SO, EVEN THOUGH THE FRENCH HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN MAKING THINGS ROUGH FOR ETA ACTIVISTS IN RECENT MONTHS. WE EXPECT THE GOS WILL EXERT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH TO COOPERATE IN SEALING OFF THE BORDER TO THE MURDERERS, OR IN APPREHENDING THEM IF THEY ALREADY HAVE CROSSED. IN THIS CONNECTION, A FRENCH DIPLOMAT SAID TO EMBOFF TODAY THAT HE HOPED THIS EPISODE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE KING'S PROJECTED VISIT TO FRANCE.

EATON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, PARTY LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MADRID07618  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760378-0493  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761082/aaaacsvh.tel  
**Line Count:** 137  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 APR 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOLLOW-UP ON ETA ASSASSINATIONS RET: MADRID 7576 (NOTAL); MADRID 7383 SUMMARY: ETA'S MILITARY WING HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIB  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP, ETA, (DE ARALUCE VILLAR, JUAN MARIA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006